CLAIMS:

1. An aqueous flame retardant dispersion comprising

water;

a brominated flame retardant which has an average particle size of 20 μm or less, wherein the brominated flame retardant contains aromatically-bound bromine and is selected from a) brominated styrenic polymers which have weight average molecular weights of 650 to 950,000 and a bromine content of 60 wt% or more, and/or b) a brominated anionic chain transfer vinyl aromatic polymer which contains 70 wt% or more bromine;

at least one dispersant;

at least one wetting agent; and

at least one thickener;

wherein the flame retardant dispersion contains 25 wt% or more brominated flame retardant, based on the total weight of the dispersion.

2. A flame retardant dispersion as in Claim 1 wherein the brominated flame retardant is

A) a brominated styrenic polymer which is

i) a brominated styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 to 950,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 71 wt%;

ii) a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 8,000 to 50,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 72 wt%; and/or

iii) a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 650 to 4000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 77 wt%; and/or

B) a brominated anionic chain transfer vinyl aromatic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1000 to 21,000, and/or a bromine content of 70 wt% to 79 wt%.

3. A flame retardant dispersion as in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the brominated flame retardant has an average particle size of 10 μm or less and/or wherein the brominated flame retardant was subjected to particle size reduction with a jet mill, and/or wherein the flame retardant dispersion contains 50 wt% or more brominated flame retardant, based on the total weight of the dispersion.

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4. A coating composition comprising

water;

a brominated flame retardant which has an average particle size of 20 μm or less, wherein the brominated flame retardant contains aromatically-bound bromine and is selected from a) brominated styrenic polymers which have weight average molecular weights of 650 to 950,000 and a bromine content of 60 wt% or more, and/or b) a brominated anionic chain transfer vinyl aromatic polymer which contains 70 wt% or more bromine;

at least one dispersant;

at least one wetting agent;

at least one thickener;

at least one flame retardant synergist; and

at least one coating resin;

wherein the coating composition contains 4 wt% or more brominated flame retardant, based on the total weight of the coating composition.

5. A coating composition as in Claim 4 wherein the brominated flame retardant is

A) a brominated styrenic polymer which is

i) a brominated styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 to 950,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 71 wt%;

ii) a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 8,000 to 50,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 72 wt%; and/or

iii) a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 650 to 4000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 77 wt%; and/or

B) a brominated anionic chain transfer vinyl aromatic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1000 to 21,000, and/or a bromine content of 70 wt% to 79 wt%.

6. A coating composition as in Claim 4 or 5 wherein the brominated flame retardant has an average particle size of 10 μm or less and/or wherein the brominated flame retardant was subjected to particle size reduction with a jet mill.

7. A coating composition as in any of Claims 4-6 wherein the coating composition contains 10 wt% or more brominated flame retardant, based on the total weight of the coating composition.

8. A coating composition as in any of Claims 4-7 wherein

the synergist is selected from antimony trioxide, antimony pentoxide, sodium antimonate, potassium antimonate, iron oxide, zinc borate, zinc oxide, and zinc stannate;

the coating composition contains 3 wt% or more flame retardant synergist, based on the total weight of the coating composition; and/or

the coating resin is polyvinyl chloride, a copolymer of polyvinyl chloride, or an acrylic copolymer.

9. A process for coating textile substrates, which process comprises contacting a textile substrate and a coating composition to form a coated textile substrate, wherein the coating composition comprises

water;

a brominated flame retardant which has an average particle size of 20 μm or less, wherein the brominated flame retardant contains aromatically-bound bromine and is selected from a) brominated styrenic polymers which have weight average molecular weights of 650 to 950,000 and a bromine content of 60 wt% or more, and/or b) a brominated anionic chain transfer vinyl aromatic polymer which contains 70 wt% or more bromine;

at least one dispersant;

at least one wetting agent;

at least one thickener;

at least one flame retardant synergist; and

at least one coating resin;

wherein the coating composition contains 4 wt% or more brominated flame retardant, based on the total weight of the coating composition.

10. A process as in Claim 9 wherein the brominated flame retardant is

A) a brominated styrenic polymer which is

i) a brominated styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 to 950,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 71 wt%;

ii) a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 8,000 to 50,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 72 wt%; and/or

iii) a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 650 to 4000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 77 wt%; and/or

B) a brominated anionic chain transfer vinyl aromatic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1000 to 21,000, and/or a bromine content of 70 wt% to 79 wt%.

11. A process as in any of Claims 9 or 10 wherein the brominated flame retardant has an average particle size of 10 μm or less and/or wherein the brominated flame retardant was subjected to particle size reduction with a jet mill.

12. A process as in any of Claims 9-11 wherein the synergist is selected from antimony trioxide, antimony pentoxide, sodium antimonate, potassium antimonate, iron oxide, zinc borate, zinc oxide, and zinc stannate.

13. A process as in any of Claims 9-12 wherein the coating composition contains 3 wt% or more flame retardant synergist, based on the total weight of the coating composition.

14. A process as in any of Claims 9-13 wherein the coating resin is polyvinyl chloride, a copolymer of polyvinyl chloride, or an acrylic copolymer.

15. A process as in any of Claims 9-14 wherein the coating composition contains 10 wt% or more brominated flame retardant, based on the total weight of the coating composition.

16. Any of claims 2, 5, or 10, wherein the brominated flame retardant is

a brominated styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 to 950,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 71 wt%;

a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 8,000 to 50,000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 72 wt%;

a brominated anionic styrenic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 650 to 4000, and/or a bromine content of 60 wt% to 77 wt%; or

a brominated anionic chain transfer vinyl aromatic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1000 to 21,000, and/or a bromine content of 70 wt% to 79 wt%.